

5 a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a
6 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device via the web browser;
7 and

8 a consumable order assistance computer program provided on the
9 personal computer and configured to receive a notification from the computer
10 peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a consumable,
11 alert a user of the personal computer of the notification, and provide an order
12 location to the user for the consumable.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to collect a series of
3 notifications and summarize the series of notifications for one or more computer
4 peripheral devices.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program consolidates a plurality of notifications from the at
3 least one computer peripheral device.

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to request identification from
3 a user to verify authorization of the user to submit an order.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to request at least one level
3 of authorization from a user before sending an order via the communication link
4 to a reseller of the consumable.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to provide an electronic

shopping cart data list that enables electronic ordering of the consumable from one of a list of resellers of the consumable.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order assistance computer program is further configured to prompt a customer user for authorization information.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order assistance computer program to submit an e-mail order.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order assistance computer program to submit a facsimile order.

10. A computer-implemented system which implements a program in which consumable components of computer peripheral devices are replenished, the system comprising:

a notification system that alerts a user of a personal computer that they need to order a consumable for a computer peripheral device associated with the personal computer;

a facilitation system that provides a communication link with a reseller of the consumable; and

at least one from a list of a consolidation system for consolidating a plurality of orders, an authorization system for confirming that a user is authorized to place an order for the consumable, and an order assistance system that places an order for the consumable.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system
2 identifies for the user a part number for a consumable that needs to be ordered
3 for the computer peripheral device.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system
2 comprises a messaging system within an embedded web server of a computer
3 peripheral device and a messaging system within a personal computer.

1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the personal computer further
2 comprises a browser, and the messaging system comprises an e-mail
3 application, wherein the computer peripheral device sends an e-mail notification
4 to the personal computer to alert a user to a need to order a consumable.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the e-mail notification
2 identifies the consumable by a part number.

1 15. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 consolidation system configured to aggregate a plurality of notifications for one
3 or more computer peripheral devices.

1 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 authorization system configured to request authorization from a user prior to
3 automatically submitting an order for the consumable to a reseller of the
4 consumable.

1 17. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 order assistance system configured to automatically submit an order for the
3 consumable in response to receiving a notification that a consumable needs to
4 be ordered.

1 18. A method of providing order assistance, comprising:
2 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having a
3 communication link with a reseller of a consumable, and a messaging system
4 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer;
5 detecting a need to replenish a consumable at the computer peripheral
6 device;
7 notifying a user at the personal computer of the need to replenish the
8 consumable;
9 providing an order address location to a user for a reseller that sells
10 the consumable; and
11 placing an order for the consumable with the reseller using the
12 personal computer.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein placing the order comprises
2 automatically placing the order for the consumable in response to notifying the
3 user.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein, prior to placing an order,
2 querying a user to authorize placing the order with an identified reseller.